

# The West Side

Newsletter and Journal of the Yamhill County Historical Society

February 2000

## THE MILLER SETTEE

The main thing missing here is the "before" picture of the settee shown on the right. This beautiful unique, valuable and very old (estimated 1820's) piece of furniture has no resemblance to when it was delivered to the museum. Verle and Dorothy Miller (Donors of the Log Building) had items delivered to us from their home on the beach. This "Settee" was among the items. It was just a pile of wood and rotted cloth at that time. An antique dealer gave us \$50 for it, since we knew there was no way we could afford to have it repaired.



Later we discovered it was one of Verle's favorite pieces and he planned on having it displayed at the museum. The antique dealer's husband spent several weeks repairing the frame to a useable condition. It had become one of his wife's favorite pieces by this time. We began some heavy negotiations to have it returned to the museum. We thank the antique dealer and her husband for their understanding. Of course, crying and begging helped too. Dorothy Miller was aware of our plight and very generously paid to have it upholstered. The next time you see this wonderful "Settee" please appreciate all those who worked to get it there. Remember this occasion, Dorothy, George and Maxine? (Shirley Venhaus, YCHS President)

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY BOARD MEETING

**Finances:** Betty Brown, Treasurer, presented a summary of finances for 1999: Income: \$12,701.25, Expenses: \$24,333.36, which included a new roof on the museum.

**Correspondence:** Marjorie Owens reported a card sent to George Camplair's family and a Thank You to Jane Claire Edmunds for her book "Not Just Trees". Four additional books have been donated. Out of print books were discussed: these may be scanned and made available on CD-rom or on our Web Page. Shirley Venhaus will correspond with Mrs. Stellflug, owner of the property across the street from the museum, regarding a written first right of refusal on purchase of her property.

**Volunteer Chair:** As always, more volunteers are needed.

**Old Business:** Board Appointee: Eileen Lewis was appointed to serve out the remainder of John White's term. Security: Shirley will meet with A&E Security regarding the Log Building and an entry alarm in the Farm Building. Nice Electric will be asked to bid on wiring repairs in the museum.

**New Business:** Roma Sitton's filing cabinets are now in the Farm Building, and they need to be moved to the Log Building. Items need to be sorted and cataloged. Thanks to Dan,

Olive and Betty for the newsletter. Volunteers will have a list of needs they can work on while at the Museum. George Williams reported that Elaine Rohse is working on an article about our Heritage Tree Program. There are 24 Heritage trees listed in Yamhill County. Ben is working on a Tri-fold about these trees that can be printed and made available at the Museum.

## OTHER NEWS

We recently learned that Dorothy Miller had a stroke, and wish her a speedy recovery. Celia Dromgoole has taken ill, and our thoughts are with her also.

## ATTENTION VOLUNTEERS

A new security system has been installed in the log and farm buildings. It will use the same password now used in the Church. The keypad is located on the bookshelf next to the computer. This also controls the barn alarm. The keypad is slightly different than the one in the Church, but is fairly easy to decipher. These two systems are not tied together (old and new). Full activation will begin Feb. 15th. Contact Shirley if you have any questions.

*Note: the four characters in brackets to the right of your name on the address label are the year (1st two digits) and month (2nd two digits) our records show you last paid your dues. If those numbers show its been more than a year, this will be among the last of your YCHS newsletters. A 90 day grace period has been approved by the Board: thereafter, sorry, but no more newsletters. For those who paid in October of 1998 (or earlier), this will be their final newsletter.*

*The Yamhill County Historical Society is a nonprofit tax exempt educational and public service corporation established to protect, preserve and share the history and heritage of Yamhill County*

**OFFICERS - 2000**

President

*Shirley Venhaus*  
472-7328

VP/Program

*Barbara Knutson*  
843-2069

Secretary (Joint)

*Shirley McDaniel*  
662-3528  
*Eileen Crawley*  
835-3673

Treasurer

*Betty Brown*  
472-7100

Financial Secretary

*Lila Jackson*  
472-8510

Corres. Secretary

*Marjorie Owens*  
843-3081

Board of Directors

*Eileen Lewis*  
835-7531

*Ed Roghair*  
472-6909

*Robert Kuykendall*  
662-3354

*Dan Linscheid*  
843-2625

Volunteer Coordinator

*Maxine Williams*  
472-4547

Librarian

*Olive Merry Johnson*  
472-6070

Newsletter

*Dan Linscheid*  
843-2625

Car Pool Coordinator

*Joanne Watts*  
835-5893

**MUSEUM HOURS**

**Sept 1 to May 31:**  
Sat-Sun 1 to 4 PM  
or  
By Appointment

605 Market Street  
Lafayette Oregon  
Phone: 864-2308

**ANNUAL DUES**

**\$10.00 Individual**  
**\$17.00 Family**  
**\$125.00 Life**

Mail to:

*Financial Secty*  
2430 North Baker  
McMinnville OR  
97128

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:**

**Life Member:** Judith Newman, Dayton  
**New Members Welcomed:**  
Erma Clark McMinnville  
Diane Kroll, McMinnville  
Margaret Macauley, McMinnville  
Barbara Hughes, McMinnville

**RECENT BOOK DONATIONS**

The below listed books were recently donated to the Historical Society's Library by the authors:

1. "Not Just Trees" by Jane Claire Dirks-Edmunds of McMinnville
- Books by Charles George Davis of North Plains, Oregon:
1. "The Oskaloosa Company, last wagon train to Skinner's in 1847."
2. "Scott-Applegate Trail 1846-47, Atlas and Gazetteer."
3. "Oregon-California Trails, San Gabriel to Fort Vancouver."
4. "The Overland Journey to Oregon" (The story of P.W. Crawford)

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS:**

Regretfully, we have a number of long overdue members who will receive this as their last issue of our newsletter. Those members who are in arrears more than 90 days will no longer receive this newsletter. At last count we had nearly 30 members who had not paid dues since 1998.

Please help your Historical Society stay on sound financial ground by remembering to remit your dues in timely fashion to **Lila Jackson**, Financial Secretary, 2430 N. Baker Street, McMinnville, OR 97128

**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER**

For our February potluck and meeting we will be back at the **Seventh Day Adventist Church**, 1500 Old Sheridan Road, McMinnville on **February 8th at 6:30 p.m.** Our program is entitled "The Trask Mountain Mail Route", presented by Eleanor Mitchell and assisted by Marjorie Owens and Nancy Thornton.



This Photo, taken in 1898, shows some of the County Officials of the time: from left to right, they are, first row, Kate Jones Gray, Sheriff's Deputy, Clara Rhude, Deputy Assessor, Mary M. Macy, Deputy Recorder; second row, R.P. Bird, County Judge, J.O. Rogers, Deputy Recorder; W.G. Henderson, County Sheriff, L.H. Baker, Superintendent of Schools, E.V. Littlefield, School Superintendent succeeding Baker, W.T. Macy Recorder; third row, C.E. Branson, County Surveyor, Ernest Henderson Deputy Sheriff, Glenn Henderson, Deputy Sheriff, W.G. Rhude, Deputy Recorder, J.H. Nelson, County Clerk, O.O. Rhude, County Treasurer and J.M. Yocum, County Assessor. Photo furnished to the News-Register in 1938 by Evelyn Macy.

## Samuel (Uncle Sam) Cozine (1820-1897)

Samuel Cozine, born in Kentucky, was a single man looking for fame and fortune in the 1840's. He was of the age to "get out on his own." He was 22 when he heard about the "Oregon Country" and his enthusiasm and excitement about the "unknown" West sent him looking for an opportunity to make the trip.

At Westport (now Kansas City), he found his chance to join that First Great Emigrant Train. It was the same wagon train that many Willamette Valley settlers were on and the leaders made him welcome.

Samuel signed-on as a "smithy." His talents would stand him in "good stead" with the emigrants. He had been an apprentice blacksmith in Missouri, so now, as a journeyman, he was ready to ply his trade. He loved to work with iron and steel and was skilled in shaping tools and parts.

Reading about Samuel, we get the feeling that he was a "bouyant spirit," friendly and happy, with the ability to make many friends. Always ready to help, he was invaluable during the six months of travel.

A good part of Samuel's "bouyant spirit" was spent courting Mahala Arthur. "...her youthful beauty inspired a lasting regard in the heart of the young emigrant, who at once began to think of the advantages of a pretty and interesting helpmate. That the attachment was reciprocated was a fact apparent to all the members of the train..." (History of Oregon, Rev. H.K. Hines) Mahala was the daughter of William and Millie Malone Arthur. The Arthurs arrived in the Willamette Valley early in '44 with their eight children, including Mahala. Samuel stayed in Oregon City the next two years, working as a blacksmith and courting Mahala whenever he could.

Finally, in the spring of 1845, Samuel saved enough money to propose! On March 29th they were married, bought Thomas Owen's Donation Land Claim and built a small log cabin. The land contained 640 acres and was located where Linfield College and several businesses and homes now stand. Samuel built a small blacksmith shop to serve farmers in the area. He enjoyed working the forge more than farming so made

blacksmithing his main occupation.

In 1849, gold lured Samuel to California, so he left his wife and children and traveled to the mines. Reports indicate that he left his family at the "mercy of the Indians." However, Mahala, besides being a crack shot with a rifle, never saw an Indian that she needed to worry about. It was common practice, during the "golden years" in California, for the "man of the house" to try his luck in the mining camps.

It was amazing how successful they usually were. Whatever hardships this trip caused the family, it was worthwhile. Samuel came home \$6,000 richer. This "nest egg" placed them in good financial condition for the rest of their lives. (The first gold he found he made into a ring for Mahala.) He continued his interest in mining, especially in the Powder River mines in Eastern Oregon, but while successful, he never hit it as good as in California.

In 1853, W.T. Newby built his grist mill and a store. He invited Samuel to move his blacksmith shop up near the mill and gave him two lots on Third Street between Adams and Baker to build a shop and a house. Thus, the reminder of a pioneer family who gave so much to McMinnville, Oregon. Apparently Samuel died soon after the house was constructed and Mahala lived there for several years as a widow.

In 1867, Mr. and Mrs. Cozine, with other members of the South Yamhill Baptist Church, located near the McCabe Church, decided to establish a church in McMinnville. An opportunity came for them to meet in the chapel of McMinnville College, located at First and Cows, so this group "jumped at the chance" to bring the Baptist church closer to home. Samuel was the senior deacon during this time and Mahala was a leader in the Baptist Women's Association.

Since the college and the church used the same quarters, they became closely affiliated. In fact the president, or one of the professors of McMinnville College, frequently served as the church's pastor. As the college grew and needed more space, Samuel and Mahala donated the twenty acres where the present Linfield College now stands. This left the Baptists with the old college

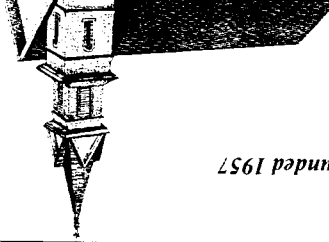
building. The Cozines supported both institutions the rest of their lives. Samuel served as trustee of the college for many years.

Unfortunately, life for the Cozines had its sorrows. Of their eight children, only three lived to adulthood: Mrs. Lucretia Story of McMinnville, Mrs. Auburn L. Linn of Portland and Pleasant. Pleasant was born on the site of Linfield College January 28, 1849. He was educated in the public schools of McMinnville. A practical education was afforded him at age 13 when his father took him to the gold fields near Boise, Idaho. He and his father Samuel did well in the mines and soon had numerous claims to his credit. Many of these were to prove of great value but had been disposed of. Pleasant returned to McMinnville and finished his education and farmed his father's large claim. He had an interest in building and soon was learning the building trade and followed that line of work the rest of his life. He moved to Sprague, Washington in 1882 and also spent time in Seattle. Upon his father's death he returned to McMinnville to help his mother with her property. In his days in McMinnville he was responsible for many of the finest buildings in town.

Samuel Cozine worked in his blacksmith shop and took a lively interest in the town of McMinnville right up to his death in 1897. "This very early settler was known for many years as 'Uncle Sam', and his figure on the streets and on the country roads was one of the most familiar in the county. Generous and open-hearted, he gave to everything that pointed to the substantial up building of his locality, and his sound business advice and practical suggestions were invariably sought at times of stress and moment." (Hines)

Mahala lived on for several years, continuing the family tradition of community service and work. She owned considerable property, was considered a brave pioneer, was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for thirty years and was loved by all the town's people. Her home and the flowers she grew were her pride and joy. She enjoyed pattering in the yard and visiting with friends as they passed by.

(by Jim Lockett)



Founded 1957

**YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 484  
Lafayette Oregon 97127

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #3  
Lafayette Oregon

**YAMHILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*February 2000 Calendar of Events*

**Tuesday February 8th, 5:00 PM**

Board of Directors - American Legion Hall - Sheridan

**Tuesday February 8th, 6:30 PM**

General Meeting & Potluck Dinner- Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Old Sheridan Road, McMinnville

Bring your Own Table Service - Guests Always Welcome  
*(See page 2 for details)*